

Rejoinder

Claims 1-5, 12-20, and 22-24 are directed to an allowable product. Pursuant to the procedures set forth in MPEP § 821.04(B), claims 6-11, directed to the process of making or using an allowable product, previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction requirement, are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Because all claims previously withdrawn from consideration under 37 CFR 1.142 have been rejoined, **the restriction requirement as set forth in the Office action mailed on January 16, 2007 is hereby withdrawn**. In view of the withdrawal of the restriction requirement as to the rejoined inventions, applicant(s) are advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application. Once the restriction requirement is withdrawn, the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 121 are no longer applicable. See *In re Ziegler*, 443 F.2d 1211, 1215, 170 USPQ 129, 131-32 (CCPA 1971). See also MPEP § 804.01.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jennifer Branigan on 09/15/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

The claims:

1. (Currently amended) A coated, clad moulding consisting essentially of a porous inorganic monolithic moulding having one side longer than the other(s) and having a cladding on the long side, wherein a free radical initiator is homogeneously distributed on the surface of said moulding before being coated with a polymer applied from a coating solution by impregnation, comprising at least one organic prepolymer or organic monomer and/or oligomer, which organic prepolymer or organic monomer and/or oligomer is precipitated from the coating solution by lowering the solution temperature and which polymer is physisorbed or chemisorbed on the inorganic moulding and bonded to said moulding via initiation,

and wherein the polymer coating is stable against NaOH,

and wherein after coating all of the pores of the inorganic moulding have inner surfaces uniformly coated by said polymer such that the pores a pore volume of the inorganic moulding ~~are is retained in the coated clad moulding and the surfaces of said pores are coated by said polymer.~~

6. (Currently amended) A process for the production of a coated, clad moulding porous inorganic monolithic moulding according to claim 1, which is coated with at least one organic polymer, comprising:

- a) providing a porous inorganic monolithic moulding,
- b) impregnating the porous inorganic monolithic moulding from step a) with a coating solution comprising at least one organic prepolymer or organic monomer and/or oligomer,

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- c) coating the moulding, whereby during the coating, the moulding is clad in an impermeable manner, at least on the long sides, with an inert material or stored in an inert solvent
and
- d) washing and drying the moulding from step c) to remove reaction residues and solvent.

7. (Withdrawn Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein in step c) the prepolymer or monomer and/or oligomer is precipitated from the coating solution onto the inorganic moulding.

8. (Withdrawn Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the precipitation is carried out by lowering the temperature.

9. (Withdrawn Original) A method for the chromatographic separation of at least two substances comprising introducing said substances to a moulding according to claim 1.

10. (Withdrawn Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein said chromatography is high pressure liquid chromatography and at least one of said substances is a biological material.

11. (Withdrawn Original) A method according to claim 9, wherein at least one of said substances is a protein or nucleic acid.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Note that Applicant's amendment and the examiner's amendment are sufficient to overcome the 112 claim rejections, the art rejections and sufficient to place the instant application in

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condition for allowance. Support for the amendment can be found in the first paragraph on page 17 of the specification of the present invention.

Of the references of record, the most pertinent are EP 838 257 and Stanton et al. (US 4,851,163).

EP'257 requires a membrane coating which does not permeate into the inner porosity of the substrate so that the diffusion of the gaseous species is increased. Likewise, EP'257 fails to teach that all of the pores of the substrate have inner surfaces uniformly coated with the polymer.

Stanton teaches a coated ceramic body for wastewater treatment comprising a ceramic body having a uniform pore distribution and uniform pore size, and an organic polymer diffused into the top 1 mm of the ceramic body surface, which is less than 5% of the thickness of the ceramic body. Likewise, Stanton fails to teach that all of the pores of the porous ceramic body have inner surfaces uniformly coated with the polymer.

Note that, none of the prior art, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a coated, clad moulding with a structure set forth in the claim. Accordingly, the instant claims are deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1485. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Callie Shosho can be reached on (571) 272-1123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hai Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794